

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 354

By Ragan

A RESOLUTION to honor Jeff Smith on the occasion of his retirement from Oak Ridge National Laboratory.

WHEREAS, we take great pleasure in paying tribute to those dedicated professionals who utilize their talent, creativity, problem-solving skills, and institutional knowledge to advance their employers' goals; and

WHEREAS, Jeff Smith, Deputy for Operations at Oak Ridge National Laboratory (ORNL), is retiring on April 30, 2021, after more than two decades of building a culture of operational excellence across the laboratory's campus; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Smith has served as ORNL's chief operating officer since UT-Battelle won the lab's management contract in 2000, and his contributions have been transformative; and

WHEREAS, he has consistently pursued ideas that significantly advanced ORNL's missions and service to the nation, regardless of the challenges; and

WHEREAS, although he humbly shares credit and dislikes the spotlight, Mr. Smith has been a part of every major initiative at ORNL in the past two decades; and

WHEREAS, most notably, Jeff Smith led ORNL's \$400 million modernization effort, which resulted in the most construction on-site since the Manhattan Project; and

WHEREAS, he was critical in securing state, federal, and private funding for the showcase central campus quad, including the Oak Ridge Leadership Computing Facility and new laboratory and office space that make ORNL an attractive destination for researchers from around the world; and

WHEREAS, Jeff Smith also brought a strong safety culture to ORNL, and his contributions now benefit all seven national laboratories in which Battelle has an operating interest; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Smith has given back to his community as a leader in the renovation and expansion of the Oak Ridge High School, and he was instrumental in the recruitment of Cirrus Aircraft to Blount County; and

WHEREAS, he is a longtime board member of the Metropolitan Knoxville Airport Authority and served on the White House Transition Planning Office responsible for creating the Department of Homeland Security; in 2018, he began his Presidentially appointed, Senate-confirmed term on the Tennessee Valley Authority Board of Directors; and

WHEREAS, during his final six months at ORNL, Mr. Smith took a lead role in reinvigorating ORNL's lab agenda and advancing efforts that promise to make the Oak Ridge area more attractive as a center for innovation; and

WHEREAS, as a visionary leader, Jeff Smith has endeavored to leave ORNL a better place than he found it, and there can be no doubt that he has achieved that goal in abundance; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED TWELFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we honor Jeff Smith on more than two decades of meritorious service as Deputy for Operations at Oak Ridge National Laboratory and extend to him our best wishes for every success and happiness in his retirement.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy and upon proper request made to the appropriate clerk, the language appearing immediately following the State seal appear without House or Senate designation.